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EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIES

BY

RAO BAHADUR

P. THEAGARAYA CHETTY, B.A.

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EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIES

THE mighty struggle that is now engaging the mind of every one in the world does not appear to be nearing its end. Appearances point to its continuance for at least another year. How it will end and with what results for commerce and industries in India it is not easy to foresee. The whole European world in the midst of this gigantic war is making preparations for its future relations with other countries in regard to their commerce and industries and for the development of raw products in its dependencies. India which was famous for her industries, when the Western world was steeped in barbarism, has now under the ægis of British Government assumed an unenviable position. The most learned, the most philosophic, the most civilized and the most higly artistic Indian has now turned a slave to Western culture. India which has supplied all the world with its artistic wares which were carried in her own ships to the different parts of

the world, has not a ship to call her own and not an industry to supply the wants of another country. She has now to depend upon foreign wares to satisfy her wants though she produces all the raw materials. The hand that constructed the great temples of Southern India, the hand that carved the great caves of Agenta, Elephanta and Ellora, the hand that built Akbar's palaces at Fatipur Sikri, the hand that built the Taj of Agra and the pearl mosque of Delhi, the hand that fought the Ramayana and Mahabharata wars, the hand that built the historic Sethu bridge, and the Delhi Devani Am in which an inscription is still found with a legend that Emperor Shah Alam exclaimed "if there is a heaven on earth it is this! it is this!! it is this!!!," this hand now does the most unimaginative work of tilling the land and tending cattle. What brought the Indian to this stage it is easy to guess. History tells us that when Alexander the Great invaded India, King Porus, who then held sway over Northern India, had his hands full in performing *Aswametha yagam* creating enemies all round. We need not go into every conquest of this country. It is the internal dissensions and internecine quarrels caused by the caste system introduced into this ountry by the Aryan civilization that brought

India to this state of perfect helplessness. How long this caste system will survive, how long Varnasrama Dharma will sway the mind of the Hindu only gifted Brahmanical minds can divine. Signs there are, thanks to the British advent, of wearing out of the caste system, and the time for its utter extinction does not appear to be far off. There is the popular saying that by the end of five thousand years of Kaliyuga there will be *varna sankramanam*, *i.e.*, an inter mixture of all castes, and signs are not wanting for the fulfilment of this prophesy. Leaving that aside for the present, and let us consider the present state of the country as it is now found during the war. We have during the British regime adopted the Western civilization and contracted the pleasures and wants of that civilization, so much so that we who could have lived on the productions of the country are quite in the hands of foreign supplies. Except that we have our own food grains, we are almost entirely depending upon imports from foreign countries. Who are responsible for this state of affairs we need not go into. Suffice it to say that the caste system that ruled rampant in the country has established a position that the class that improved the brain took it as an indignity if it were asked to do manual work. The artisan and the labouring

classes had no education whatever and were satisfied with the position they occupied, glad that they were left alone free from Mahratta and Mohammadan depredations and the rapacity of officials. The Indian, oppressed for centuries on one side by the priesthood and on the other by the conquering hero and his myrmidons, found a peaceful state under the British Government and began to lead a placid and lazy life. On the other hand the British Government introduced a system of education modelled on their lines, little thinking of the results that they would produce in a strange land like India. In the course of 50 years the country is full of legal talent, with any amount of litigation, to the untold misery of the middle and lower classes and constant strife in the well to do and richer classes in the way of partition suits, succession suits and damage suits, etc., necessitating innumerable law courts and their concomitants. There are a large number of officials, schoolmasters, etc , and a very large number of quasi-educated young men educated up to matriculation or upper secondary standard and moving about for want of employment a standing burden to their parents, with no inclination to any manual work not being trained for any such work in the schools at an age when most susceptible of undergoing training. In fact

the education that is now given in our schools and colleges is one that makes our boys more unfitted than fitted for any useful work that will help the advancement of the country. The education only Serves to transfer the wealth of the land and of the productive population to the educated and unproductive population of the country. The ryot classes have no education of the sort that will help the improvement of agriculture, hence the plough and the tiller of the Puranic days are still being used without any improvement, and all the improvements of Germany and America are a sealed book to the agriculturists. The artisan, say the weaver, who civilised the barbarous world by his Dacca and Arni muslins, is for want of encouragement and demand, now languishing, and has taken to agriculture for want of food. The sculptor who carved the artistic pillars of Sucheendram and Madura was obliged to give up his art for the plough. The dyer who produced the most beautiful and artistic eastern dyes, from roots and barks and flowers, has disappeared giving place to aniline dyes, and hence we are not able to reproduce them even in these war days when dyes command ten times their pre-war day prices. All these and many more will have to be laid at the door of the British Government. But the

people themselves are also responsible on the other side. What is the remedy? What are the directions in which there ought to be improvements and whose duty it is and how to achieve them are the questions that ought to be in the minds of the people at this time, especially when the whole world is concerting measures to settle their positions after the war.

We, especially the educated classes, are now engaging our minds in reforms no doubt, but reforms in the government, reforms by which we shall get Home Rule and Self-Government and more power in the Government of the country and the power of the purse, so that immediately after the war several high places might be thrown open to us and more Art Colleges and Law Colleges might be opened, more graduates, B. A's., M. A's., B L's. might be manufactured, so that more lawyers might be let loose on innocent people and more courts established to satisfy the litigants and so on and so forth. What will the country as a whole gain by it? Nothing, nothing. We want reforms in agriculture, in commerce, in industries and in education. Education is the chief thing towards which the Government and the people alike will have to direct their attention. As I said already, the present system is a failure, an absolute failure, from the point of view of the

material advancement of India. The Government no doubt are doing their best by establishing the Coimbatore agricultural College, the Pusa Institute and so on. These are no doubt necessary as research institutions, but what the average agriculturist requires to know is, how to plough his land advantageously, how to use improved implements, how to select seeds and manure to suit his land, and how to make two blades grow where one grew. Every big village or group of small villages must have a school where the vernaculars are taught and along with them the A.B.C. of agriculture. A taste must be created in the boy by the teaching in the school, so that when he goes to plough his land he goes with useful ideas and trained hands. Our secondary schools must be centres for manual training and training in physics and chemistry. A boy going out of a secondary school must be in a position to use a plane and a chisel and electric wire and be able to analyse ordinary soil and manure. It does not require very high knowledge of literature to understand and make practical use of chemistry and physics and plane and chisel. What we now do is put a number of books in a foreign language into the hands of the youngster, make him sit at table and cram them, transcribe them in note books, leaving nothing to observation

and thought and leaving not even time to play. He becomes an automaton to eat, cram, transcribe, go to school, and by the end of the school course he has nothing left in him but a languid mind with no elasticity, of either mind or body, and subject to depression making him utterly helpless to enjoy the pleasures of life and looking for help from the doctor.

This position must go, giving place to a more rational system of education. 'All work and no play makes jack a dull boy' is an old saying, and it is proved in our every day life. A system must be introduced by which every school-going boy of eight and more must have manual training for three hours a day along with three hours of book learning. He will then have free use of his brain, muscles and nerve. It will make him both physically and mentally strong and more spirited which will prove more helpful in after-life. He will not then think it *infra dig* to put his hand to any work which will require the use of his hand as it is now. If this system is introduced I am quite certain our young men will turn out more useful citizens instead of wasting their young lives in attending Home Rule meetings and shouting out loud protests. They will find occupation everywhere. They need not wait year-in and year-out for clerk's places

on Rs. 15 a month or lower still. They need not be a burden to their parents for want of work and beg people for small places. They can stand on the dignity of labour and demand what is their due, a position most enviable to independent men.

Coming to higher education there was a necessity for it at the time of Lord Macaulay—for the purpose of Government requirements. But certainly not in the scale it is now. No doubt higher education is very desirable for its own sake and for enlightenment but when it satisfied the requirements of Government why is it being spread more and more at the cost of the tax-payer is beyond my comprehension. I can understand higher education in sciences, such as applied Chemistry, Physics, Electricity, etc., as given in our colleges so as to be applied to arts, and industries but the instruction given at present is neither fish, nor fowl, nor good red herring. Every one who passes the degree examination becomes a Government official, a practising Vakil, a Munsif, a Sub-Judge, a Magistrate or a Teacher. How does his so-called knowledge of Chemistry, Physics, History, Philosophy, Mathematics help him in after life? It is all given up the moment the graduates leave their colleges. We have known young men who passed out successfully from

agricultural coll ges turning clerks. If education is made the means for earning ones livelihood how far will the Government be justified in spending the tax-payers' money to educate a class of people to earn their livelihood and say no money for educating the masses. It is a question whether the education of the masses and raising them from ignorance is the duty of the Government and that the money spent on such an education is rightly spent or whether spending money upon highly educating and manufacturing a class to howl for more and more appointments and to create more unrest and litigation in the country is the right course. Compare the service of 30 years back with the present and see what enormous rise there is. It may be said that the Government machine is very much enlarged, the revenue itself has grown enormously in these thirty years past requiring this great increase. The red tapeism of old has grown worse in these days. The officials do not now give attention and time to their work as they did before: There is no doubt more notes, more reports, are now written more paper and ink spent, but much less of personal attention. In fact the Government is now not personal Government, but paper Government and Government of clerks, and of office notes. Why it is so, is patent to every observer. The old

Haileberry civilian is gone; we have competition civilians with privilege leave and other leaves and fast steamers to spend their short leave even in England, and they as a general rule have not much sympathy for the Indian. The present—day civilian works, gets his pay and retires on pension and there all ends. Then comes the Indian official. He with his high educational qualification, always and ever keeps thinking of going up and up but with no active sympathy. He thinks that by pleasing his superior, he will have his support *and every time there was the least sound* for some new place he is thrust in. The Government, whenever they find some clamour from the educated classes for higher appointments, open new places for them and, to recompense their own class, create some big departments and officers. So it goes on expanding with what good to the tax-payer or to the country in general nobody can imagine. The Indian Civil and Judicial administration is the most overgrown and highly paid one having no parallel anywhere in the civilized world. This state of affairs is the real out come of higher education as it is now given. Let the higher education be diverted to its proper channels. Let sciences be taught to help industries, arts and agriculture, then the money spent upon higher education will be justifiable, and will bear its proper fruit.

Let me now come to the subject of this paper. As I said above, the whole world is devoting its attention to its future trade, commerce and industries, and it is high time that we also turned our thoughts to them leaving Home Rule to our betters.

This Presidency is very backward in industries. Bombay has its extensive cotton industry, and Bengal its jute and cotton industries. But Madras has very little of the kind. There are a few cotton mills in this province three in this city, two in Coimbatore, one in Calicut, and a few in the Tinnevelly and Madura districts, but the main portion of the cotton produced is exported to foreign countries to enrich them. Cotton spinning and weaving is no new industry to this Presidency. The Buckingam mills and Carnatic mills are very old institutions, so also is *the Madras United*, and they are all very successful mills, so much so that the Madras United managed by Indian agency, paid 25 to 30 percent year after year for the last thirty years or more. A weaving mill at Koilpatty started in the time of the late Mr. Venkata Rao, Manager of Ettiyapuram, paid very large dividends, and in the fourth year of its establishment he seriously thought of paying back the whole capital raised. So the industry was tried for a length of time and proved a success.

As for cotton itself Coimbatore and Tinnevelly produce cotton with which grey shirtings can easily be woven. Thanks to the Madras Government and English Cotton Growing Association we have now Combodia cotton grown in several parts of this Presidency and 60's can easily be spun and the famous 1703 mulls can be manufactured. I may mention here that last year at about this time I had the honour of presiding at an industrial conference at Thiruppur in the Coimbatore District where I found 150 ginning factories, all managed by Indians, where five years before there was only one, and that owned by Messrs. Binny & Co. I may also mention that just by the pandal in which the conference was held there was a big workshop owned and managed by an Indian and worked by Indian hands where all kinds of repairs to ginning machinery and engines were done showing clearly that in the course of five years a great improvement has come over industries there. Take also the very rapid growth of Rice Mills. These show that we are not wanting in enterprise, but the difficulty is in co-operative action. There are instances where co-operative action resulted in failure, but to my mind success entirely depends upon the direction. I will mention one instance that came to my

notice. Some educated gentlemen of Coimbatore formed a company and established a weaving factory with a capital of a lakh and fifty thousand. Weaving machinery of the very best kind was fitted up with excellent steam power to work. The managing board consisted almost wholly of vakils. The mill produced cloth of very good kind, but its cost was too much to meet the market and the market would not pay more for this excellent kind of cloth. It resulted in a heavy loss at first. The second year the same, the third year the same. The Directors were alarmed and quietly handed it over to Mr. Stanes of Coimbatore. He worked, and in the 2nd year of his agency he had his agency commission and also paid a dividend. The next year he paid bigger dividend. So much for the direction. But I must say we are not very badly off on that score even. What then is it that is wanting for establishing the mill industry? Co-operation and exertion, and I belive the time has come for a move in this direction. We must co-operate and work for it. If a few leaders in Madras and in the moffusil put their heads and hands together and move in the matter, I am sure we shall meet with successs. The industry is one that has been tried and proved a success here and everywhere in India, and if mills are established in cotton

centres such as Coimbatore, and Koilpatty in the south, and in Cocanada or thereabouts, the centre of *Warrngal Cotton*, with looms to weave and and with modern appliances for utilising waste cotton and looms to weave cheap shawls of the kind woven in Germany out of Indian waste cotton, I can say with certainty that the mill industry will be a great success. Madras Presidency produces cotton which can feed a hundred mills and more. If only two or three spinning and weaving mills are started soon, say in the course of ten years, we shall have the pleasure of seeing any number of mills. A problem of very great importance to the country which is engaging the attention of the Government and the educated classes for sometime past can also be easily solved—the question of emigration. The agricultural labourer is very poorly paid as agriculture is in a very poor position and cannot afford to pay higher wages. Many labourers leave the country in quest of work, and they are in the best of health when they leave the country. If this labour is utilised for mill purposes it will enrich this country instead of enriching foreign countries *and avoid being treated like mere cattle in return.* This is a problem that should engage the attention of our educated friends and induce them to invest their spare

money in industries instead of placing it in the hands of sowcars for high interest.

Next in importance to cotton are oil seeds We are exporting ground nuts, sesamum, cotton seeds, copras to a very large extent by which France, Germany, and other foreign countries make enormous profits. They not only utilize oils from them for edible purposes and making soap but also make use of the refuse for cattle feeding and fertilizing soil. By our export we are not only losing what is required for man, but also what is required for beast and soil. This is a matter of such great importance that the Government as the supreme landlords ought to have taken it into their hands and demonstrated to the satisfaction of the agriculturists the great potentiality of oil seeds. They ought also to import experts even at very great cost from countries where they are sucessfully worked and introduce machinery to demonstrate and teach the chemistry of the seeds. Our benign Government do take steps to do some thing of the kind, but unfortunately whenever the Government put their hands they prove failures. To my knowledge the Industrial Department of Madras brought out oil extracting machinery at some cost, and the public will be glad to know what the machinery is now doing, who owns it,

what experiments were made, with what results and how much of money was spent upon it. I will quote from a paper by Mr. R. L. Sutaria, a partner of Kothari Sutaria and Co. on this subject. "Because, the English oil mills had failed to obtain a good, edible oil from Indian cotton seed it was generally supposed that a better grade was almost impossible. The experiments of Drs. Leather and Hooper, Chemists to Government of India, supported this view. They found that the oil obtained from Indian seed had an acrid taste and were unable to remove this acridity by any of the refining methods in vogue. The operations of the Indian Cotton Oil Co., Ltd., however, have subsequently proved that this view was erroneous. Their I.C.O. salad oil, now so well known throughout India, is perfectly sweet and natural, without any trace of the so-called acridity. . . . . The conclusion obviously is that the seed when worked up fresh in India itself, is capable of yielding an oil not a bit inferior to the best grades of American or Egyptian cotton seed oil." Further on he says, "To sum up, I advocate the establishment of cotton seed oil mills in India itself for the following reasons :—

1. It would add to the national wealth about three crores of rupees, now a dead loss to the

country, through the economical use of cotton seed as a cattle food.

2. It would make available a large quantity of good, edible oil which can be used as a substitute for the now costly ghee.

3 It would set free a large quantity of useful fodder, in the form of hulls, a welcome addition to the country's fodder reserves.

4. It would supply a very useful concentrate in the form of cake for milch and draught cattle.

5. It would give rise to numerous side industries, namely oil refining, soap-making, alkali manufacture, manufacture of compound feeding stuff and fertilisers, artificial butter (margarine) etc etc. If cotton seed were used in India as it is in America and elsewhere the crop here is big enough to support 200 oil mills, each with an average crushing capacity of 6000 tons of seed per annum."

In this Presidency the same can be said of ground nuts, cotton seeds and cocoanuts or copras.

We will now turn our attention to cement which for sometime past has been coming into very great use. It is not a new industry in this Presidency. Messrs. Arbuthnot Co. established a cement factory long before they failed, and it is being worked by their successors.

There are some factories in Calcutta and Bombay has started one lately. There is very great scope for this industry. The raw material required for making cement is found in abundance in the Presidency especially in the northern side of Godavery. Lime stone is found almost pure, for miles and miles in extent and very near the surface from Rajahmundry up the Godavery. Forests are abundant to give charcoal for burning lime, and coal is very near at Singarini coal fields; even Bengal coal fields are much nearer than to Madras. Transport of charcoal and lime-stone is very cheap by cargo boats working in the river for eight months of the year. In fact all the materials required for making cement will not cost more than half the cost of the materials at Madras. Labour also is cheap, and so there is a veritable gold mine in cement making in Rajamundry or thereabouts.

There is another industry of very great importance to us—paper and paste board. The raw materials required for them are abundant in the country, but they require chemicals. Raw materials for making chemicals required for it are in abundance here. There is a papar mill at Ponnalur in Travancore territory where paper was made successfully for a very long time, and the Travancore Government was supplied with paper made

there. It came into bad times and passed into several hands, and foreign competition would not allow it to succeed. The Madras Government has worked it for some time under the Industrial Department. The Dye Expert was put in charge of the paper mill and he, I was told went into it with the determination of making pulp to supply the same to Tittugarh paper Mills. Some experiments were made with bamboo, and it is said it was partly successful. But for want of bleaching materials and other difficulties it was given up. The Industrial Department has to account for this failure also. There is however a great field for this industry.

There are several industries which, if taken on hand and worked, will not only give good profits but will give employment to the wage-earner. I have already made the paper too long, and so I will close with a few general remarks.

The Swadesi movement, following the Bengal partition, had a great potentiality and; if worked on honest Swadesi principles and properly directed, would have worked wonders in the field of industrial development. Unfortunately for India the movement was based on a flimsy foundation and, in a short time, the enthusiasm fizzled out. It got into the hands of characterless and unscrupulous pretenders and the co-operative

movement was set back by a hundred years. Swadesi banks, Swadesi stores, Swadesi industries came into being like mushrooms to die out with a short ephemeral life diffusing poison all round. Lately the same kind of Swadesism has started under similar circumstances and on the same flimsy foundation. Ho wit will work and how it will end we will wait and see. I can understand, a Grihastha, being disgusted with the wordly environments, giving up all worldly pleasures, turning a Saniyasin and retiring to the forests to end his life in penitence and prayer. I cannot understand the present principle of Swadesism though no doubt the Home Rulers are disgusted with the Government Jabardust in interning mother Besant and her coadjutors.

To retaliate my friends of the Home Rule persuasion are taking Swadesi vows abjuring the use of foreign articles. Will the Home Rulers explain, when they give up foreign articles, why they should give up some only and not all? Will they tell us if they have given up using motor cars, wearing foreign cloth, reading foreign printed books, learning foreign language and lastly service under a foreign Government? Why all this cant, give up false ideas, false notions and false Swadesism and let us do some honest work. Let

us not talk on platforms that all our home industries are destroyed and we should resuscitate them, let us not talk of Government failing in their duty by not helping to develop home industries. No doubt home industries are absolutely necessary to suit our village life. Home industries are also wanted for the female population to supplement the earnings of the male earner to maintain their families and to live happy.

But in these days of foreign stress no kind of home industries will save us from destruction. When the whole world is moving with steam and electricity there is no use of our harping on home industries alone. We must put ourselves in line with foreign competition and work with zeal and energy, in combination and with character, successfully to cope with it. There are signs of very wealthy commercial bodies making plans for capturing new industries. Already this Presidency is almost, if not entirely, in the hands of European merchants. To allow it to go on still further is a danger to Indian interests. It is not a minute too early for the Indian to wake up. There is a tide in the affairs of men which when taken at the flood leads on to fortune. The tide has set in, and it is for us to take it in time. Fail to do it now we shall be lost for ever. To help us in this struggle our benign Government

has sent the Industrial Commisssion with a President who has great sympathy for India. We are always hoodwinked with the pet theory of the European merchant, that India is unfit for industries, its labour is worthless and can never compete with Western labour. Sir Thomas Holland has demolished this fettish and has openly declared that Indian labour is not a bit inferrior to Western labour and that his experience in Tata Steel Works at Sachi has satisfied him that when the Indian labourer is well fed, he is as good a workman as the Western.

Bright days are in store. Throw off lethargy. Wake up. Collect all spare wealth. Start industries. Grow rich. Show what your are capable of. If you mean to rise in the scale of nations, if you mean to attain a position equal to that of your European friends, if you really wish to obtain Home Rule, in course of years, at least seek a position, by your industries and commerce, that will make you meet your rulers on equal terms in character, ability, independence, wealth and importance. Mere froth on platforms and denouncing the Government will surely not bring on this result. Work for it and show by results that you are fit to rule, and Home Rule will come to you unasked

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EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIES
II

BY

RAO BAHADUR
P. THEAGARAYA CHETTY, B.A.

The time has come for our various non-brahmin communities to take stock of our achievements in the past and see where we have improved and where we have fallen back and propose measures to come up to the level of well-organised nations of the world. Circumstances have brought us to the present unenviable stage, and it is our duty to exert ourselves to discover the causes that have led to the present state and to propose remedies as far as we can foresee and to move steadily to carry them out. History tells us that India never was a united nation. She is so vast and her people so diversified that it is impossible for her to be a united

nation. History also tells us that when Northern India was raided by successive foreign hordes who poured through the Himalayan passes there was not even a ripple on the surface of this vast continent. When the Aryans invaded India and brought their civilization with them, they were stopped at the Vinddia mountains, so much so that a Brahmin crossing Vinddia ceased to be a Brahmin. Whether the people of the south stopped the progress of the Aryan by their physical force, or whether the civilisation of the South, as it then existed, barred the further progress of the Aryans, it is not for us to investigate. Suffice it to say that when the Aryan civilisation conquerred the whole of Northern India, Southern India, South of the Vindhia, had its own civilisation, civilisation as old as if not older than the Aryan. The archaeological researches, inagurated by the Government of India,—thanks to Lord Curzon who initiated it,—and still being continued, have discovered several hidden treasures of art and sculpture, and inscriptions bringing to light the wonderful progress made by our ancients, especially in Southern India and Ceylon. We need not go into

details, but it will be enough to know that in every branch of learning, in every branch of science, in astronomy and in the healing art, mathematics, philosophy, religion, arts and industries, in fact in every branch of healthy human activity, there was a degree of perfection never attained in any other part of the old world. All this was well enough until the advent of the Dutch, the Portuguese and the British. No doubt in the times of the Mahamedan invasions, there were disturbances everywhere, but the Mahamedan rulers themselves were patrons of art and learning, and having settled themselves in the country, helped to augment the treasures of the mind and encouraged every branch of industry and foreign trade. The early British traders and after them the East India Company, being commercial bodies and having no permanent stake in the country, did nothing to develop its resources. The policy of the Company and the bulk of the British merchants and manufacturers was so short-sighted that by the time the British Government took over the direct control of this vast Empire almost all the industries had disappeared, leaving

nothing but the soil to the people to till and eke out a bare subsistence. By the time railways spread in Europe, by the time spinning and weaving industries developed, by the time steamships began to ply as carriers of Western manufacturers, India lost everything. Her great weaving industry which supplied calicoes of beautiful make, muslins of the finest kind, her shipping which carried her wares to all parts of the world have all or almost all disappeared. Our ancient architecture and sculpture which gave the world renowned buildings and caves of old, are all forgotten, and the hands that produced them are now engaged in ploughing the land.

Unfortunately nothing worth mentioning or appreciable was attempted or done to improve the material condition of the country commensurate with its requirements and needs. In order to satisfy the requirements of the Government, English education began to spread, and it has spread so rapidly and widely in this Presidency that it can be said that with a little knowledge of the language one can travel all over the country without any inconvenience. It is said that the Euro-

pean has to learn the language of his butler in any other part of India, whereas in this part of India the butler makes himself as easily intelligible in English as any other and the memsahib is delighted with the Madras butler, with what result we will try to see. The Madras University every year produces thousands of graduates of arts and hundreds of masters of arts and graduates in Law. The more the arts graduates are created the louder is the cry for employments, and more places are created. The larger the number of the law graduates turned out by the University, the greater is litigation, the greater the number of law courts and the greater the ruin of the people. Thus while the machinery of civil and judicial administration has increased in dimension and in complexity the material progress of the people had been set back. All the cottage industries have been crushed by foregin competition. Almost all the existing industries, all the export and import trade, all commercial relations with foregin countries are in the hands of foreign merchants and capitalists; the production of raw materials alone is left in our hands. Even in this, the most remunerative portion, such as tea and rubber, is in the

hands of the foreigner. We supply the labour, and he reaps the profits. Of course, we are all sincerely thankful and grateful to the British Government. But who is to blame? None but ourselves. Let us all unite together and by combined action try to outstrip the foreigner in commerce and industries. The British Government has done much for us. We have enjoyed the blessings of good Government in the way of peace and protection, of person and property and even-handed justice; we are sincerely grateful for them all. Liberty we have of religion, and freedom of speech and action, though I am afraid we occasionally abuse that freedom. We enjoy the benefits of railway travel and postal and telegraph communications. In cities we have good roads, water supply and western sanitary improvements and all the pleasures of civilized life. But on the other hand, it is open to doubt whether the economic condition of the people has materially improved, except perhaps in the deltaic tracts of Kistna and Godaveri. There is I fear deterioration of the physique of the people everywhere. The stalwart Reddy and Gownder of good old days are nowhere to be seen now-

The mason that carved the huge rocks of Ellora and Dumbola is nowhere now. The delicate hands that wove the most intricate and artistic patterns of carpets, and silk tapestries, are nowhere now. The heads that designed the huge anicuts for the successful raising of wet crop and the hands that built their sluices and weirs, which lasted for hundreds of years intact, not looking for fresh grants for repairs, are all gone out of existence, and are not to be seen anywhere in these days of modern progress. This is the general condition of the Indian community.

Coming to the non-Brahmin communities, with which we are now particularly concerned we find that the position of importance and trust we held all along under all Governments and under the British Government is gradually being lost, and if our present policy of drift is allowed to continue much longer we shall before long be nowhere, probably completely wiped out of existence. Of late the elections to the Legislative Councils, of the Presidents of Municipal Bodies, Vice Presidents of Local Fund Boards, of Devasthanam Committees and of members of

Municipal Councils have gone against us, owing mainly to our indifference and lack of organisation. In fact every place of trust and importance is passing out of the hands of the non-Brahmin. Go to any branch of Government Administration the same sight you see, so much so, that the air we breath is being controlled and influenced by a particular section and that one of the smallest of the Indian community. Such a state of affairs is not only undesirable but dangerous. From lack of foresight and proper organisation we have allowed the balance heavily to overweigh on one side without foreseeing the danger it will cause when it goes to the breaking point. It is dangerous to allow the present policy of drift to continue any longer. It is not only dangerous to our community, but dangerous to the country itself and dangerous most of all to good Government.

Coming to the literacy of the general population, the less said the better. The census reports show that 92% of the male and 96% of the female population are completely illiterate, not able to read or write their vernacular. In good old days learning was

confined to special classes all over the world, and India continues to be so, while all over the world there came a change. The Brahmins had it as a close preserve for themselves and guarded it with religious penalties. The Tamil and Telugu mutts did the same. In fact the religious mutts which were endowed with great wealth for dissemination of religious and secular education, became, places for revelry and dissipation, as in the mediæval ages of Europe, and no attempt was made for improving the literacy of the people. The British Government, under the aegis of which higher education has advanced so much, have not attempted until very late times, to educate the populace. Thus the masses were left quite ignorant with no power of improvement whatever. Accordingly on all sides the Indian is handicapped with no education, with no incentive for improvement, with no knowledge of what is going on around; he lives like the frog in the well, thinking that the well in which it lived was the whole world, the sky above its head was all the heaven and there was nothing beyond. Thanks to the British Government, the education that is now given without any

distinction of caste or creed has opened the eyes of the people at large, and with an enlarged vision they see that there is a wide world around them. The books they read, the newspapers they digest have disclosed to them what a bright prospect lies before them into which they have not peeped hitherto. The people that never imagined that there was any land beyond the Kalapani, now see a vast world that supplies them with every luxury which a human mind can conceive People are just opening their eyes to see how much their vision was darkened by the cloud of illiteracy for centuries together by the selfishness of the priestly hierarchy. People now see how much they are behind other nations of the world, in education, in arts and industries, in trade and commerce, in wealth and importance, and lastly in health and physique.

How to improve in all these directions and how to stand on an equal footing with other nations of the world is a question every one should ask and find an answer for I will now place a few ideas before you, which however crude they may be, being the result of my experience and observation, you will take in good part and give your favourable consideration to them.

EDUCATION.

Education of the masses is a question of the deepest importance. At a certain age that every boy and every girl should learn the three Rs. is a maxim that should be in the minds of everybody and the Government. But how to do it, with what agency and at what cost are problems which are engaging the attention of our rulers and our legislators. India is not so backward as to have no precedent. Of course we had no Directors of Public Instuction, no Inspectors and Inspectresses of several grades and so on to inspect and certify as to the efficiency of instruction imparted and to the proper distribution of Government grants etc. We all know what these inspections cost and what proportion of the expenditure goes to Education itself. We had pial schools in good old days, and the boys were satisfied with wooden planks for slates, cadjan leaves for paper, and books and iron style for fountain pens. The boys had no English prints for their dress, Felt caps to cover their heads. They had no parallel bars and horizontal bars for their gymnastics, but they all did well to read and write and

very many were good readers of vernacular books and were well able to explain verses of Ramayana and Mahabarata and were experts in rapid arithmetical calculations. As for physical exercise, the old village games, the thandal and buskee, the mugthur and the carela, the bana and chota and every village with an open ground for physical exercise for both man and boy, with a thalimkhana were typical of those days. They were all strong and hale, perfectly fit for their avocations. Instead of the pial of houses, as of old, we may now have a shed and a compound, the shed for youngsters to read, and the compound for growing plants etc., for the boys' observation and for manual work. The shed need not cost much. Four walls of mud with roof of palmyra rafters and leaves will do. The boys can have teaching in the day with a night school for labourers. They need not be burdened with a number of books to stuff their heads with. Reading and writing and calculating figures with a small book in general knowledge will be quite enough. There need not be an elaborate teaching staff. Everything on indigenous lines with alterations to suit modern requirements, the

supervision in the hands of the village panchayat which must sooner or later have the management of primary education, sanitation, water supply, of grazing ground, of fuel supply, must prove a perfect success with minimum cost.

The Government need not fear for the millions of cost and the ryots need not be afraid of an education cess. The cess unauthorized of course, paid by the ryot on every plough, for the village temples and their Oochavams, for the supplies at jamabundy time, for reception of officials on their tours, for keeping up faction fights and consequent law charges, will be more than enough, if carefully managed by the panchayets.

Coming to higher education, it is a matter of more elaborate requirements and much cost. Schools there are, in fairly sufficient number, all over the Presidency, schools started by speculative people, maintained by school fees and grant-in-aid—schools under private benefaction, schools maintained by Local and Municipal Boards and some Government and mission schools, for encouraging secondary education and all classes of people have recourse to them for education.

So far it is all right, but when we come to what is called higher education, the schools, though fairly enough for the requirements of the people, are situated far away from the homes of the youngsters, requiring hostels, to keep them under proper control and for feeding them, Of late, school authorities are feeling the want and the Government and the generous public are trying to help them as far as possible. Here and there hostels are being started by school authorities and the Government on one side and private benefaction on the other, but as a matter of fact, these hostels are being utilised mainly by one class of people. Here private agency will have to come forward to see to the wants of the non-Brahmin boys. This is a point to which I have to draw special attention, as this will be the starting point from which the help that the youngsters require will have to be met by the combined efforts of the well-to-do and middle classes. If a good foundation is laid at this stage,—the stage of high school education,—we will be laying a very strong and durable foundation indeed upon which to build college education. It is here that boys should be fed well, kept under proper

control and be made physically, mentally and morally strong, as it is here that the process of elimination begins for the college education which is now the weakest point in the career of the non-Brahmin boys. It must be said that it is at this stage that parents do not bestow sufficient attention upon their boys under the idea that the teachers, who are generally Brahmins, will do that portion of the duty. Whereas teachers on their part, think that it is not their duty to look to the morale of the boys, but mere teaching the lessons in their classes is their sole work. It is a matter for regret that in these days there is no such thing as the teacher's personal interest in the boys. This is the stage in which boys form their character, and it is at this stage, that proper supervision must be kept up. I need not dilate on the subject. I earnestly invite the attention of all concerned to it. The managers of schools, the teachers and the hostel superintendents will be able to lay their fingers upon the most promising boys for higher education, and if such boys are selected and pushed up for college education and help is given where it is needed, we shall be doing an act which will be productive of most far—

reaching and satisfactory results. Here I must reiterate what I said in my paper on Education and Industries, published in "Justice" on the 21st July last. The present secondary education has proved an utter failure. It simply stuffs into the heads of students, some book learning, which in no way develops the minds of the boys; nor does it help material development in any way. This system must change and give place to a more rational system, and it must be the duty of every parent and every public man to protest against this system, which has proved a failure all along and get it put on a more rational basis, which will not only improve the mind and body of the students but also help to improve the material condition of the country.

I now come to College Education. This is looming large at present, and this appears to be the bone of contention causing irritation among our friends of the Brahmin community. If we look into the statistics of school-going population among the Hindus, it will be found that in primary education the proportion of the non-Brahmins to the Brahmins is equal to the strength of each of

the community, the lowest classes notwithstanding. The proportion is kept up in the lower secondary classes, and it is only in the high school that a fall is distinctly noticeable. As they go up to the fifth and sixth forms the fall is so great that the school final examination brings out a result quite disproportionate to the numbers of each community. The vast non-Brahmin community is to the small Brahmin community as 1 : 2. Then again there is a great fall, and when we examine the Intermediate and B.A., examinations the results are as 1 : 4. That this state of affairs should be remedied is perfectly obvious. Let us look at the past and see what has led to this result and propose remedial measures to raise ourselves to our proper level. The great non-Brahmin community has always been the backbone of the country, and it was from the sweat of the brow of this vast community that the great wealth of this historic land was produced; and it must be by the sweat of its brow that we must raise the mother-land to the level of the great nations of the world. This great asset of India was successfully exploited to pander to the pleasures of

the priestly classes, who in their turn forged more and more shackles to strangle them and made the non-Brahmins their bond slaves. Thanks to the British Government for giving us liberal education, by the help of which we are gradually breaking the shackles forged during the course of centuries and opening our eyes to see what our position is, and what it ought to be. Hitherto as tillers of the soil our community looked to its own avocations without caring much for the education which has not helped them in any way. The priestly class which has no place in the economy of nature, except deluding the people and fattening at their expense, found English education very congenial to them, and having nothing else to do have again made the best use of the advantageous position, greatly with the help of non-Brahmin benefactions. The non-Brahmin community, with the generous principles inherent in them for centuries together, with religious ideas, forced into their heads in the most insidious manner by the priestly hierarchy and with morals taught to them from their youth, they always shared their earnings with the priestly classes even at great disadvantage to themselves. The result

has been what we find now. The Tamil adage பசுவில் சாதுவு, பிராமண யேழ்மை கிடையாது, exemplifies the real position of the priestly class. On the other hand the position of the non-Brahmin community is just the reverse. They have to depend upon their own resources to maintain themselves, their families and children, to perform ceremonies, to contribute to the village expenses, from which the Brahmin is free. The non Brahmin has also to maintain village places of worship and to pay for official vagaries. He has to pay for the village litigation arising out of dissensions created and fomented by interested classes, whose chief object is to foment factions with a view to profit themselves. After meeting all expenses the non-Brahmin opens his eyes and realises that he has not done anything for the education of his boys. If he finds any difficulty to meet the call upon his purse, for educating his boy he quietly tells the boy to make himself useful in working with the family. The boy will not go to his neighbour, nor will his father do it. They shrink from begging. The non-Brahmin parent in the town, or city cannot live com-

fortably with the ordinary income he has; his maintenance costs him much more than his Brahmin friend. The maintenance of his boy in the city costs him a good deal more than that of his neighbour of Brahmin persuasion. All these now operate as a serious bar to the higher education of non-Brahmin youngsters. These difficulties we will have to take into our consideration when we devise plans for giving higher education to our boys. Wherever there are high schools, there must be committees formed, of well-to-do and enthusiastic gentlemen to manage hostels for the non-Brahmin communities, collect funds to keep them up and supervise them to keep boys under proper control, so that they may turn out good and useful boys, possessing good physique and a high sense of honour. In a word they must be taught good manners and be made models of good behaviour. The managers of schools and hostels can easily select promising boys for the college course and by giving suitable help where help is wanted and by an understanding with the parents to see only bright boys are sent for college education. Why I say there must be

this kind of selection is that our community is very large, and we cannot afford to throw away money in giving to all our boys University education and flood the market to such an extent that the graduate may not earn more than Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 a month. Why then, it may be asked, should. We endeavour to give college education to our boys and be open for flooding the market. The reason is this. Ours is a big community. We have any number of avocations to live by. All along we looked to our avocations and got on tolerably well. But the Government has created a class, which has grown gradually to importance and has attained such a position, that our living under it has become intolerable. Wherever you turn you find a class, which uses its power over you, in such a way as to make you feel completely mastered. Go to any office, go to the Railway platform, walk in the street, go to a court of law, go any where, you find a class of people who make you feel your helplessness. Look at the election of a taluq board member, of district board member, of a member of the District Municipality, of the vice Chairman and Chairman of Muncipalities, of members of

Legislative Council or anything under the sun, you find one great force working in the only direction of making that class succeed and the rest to go to the wall. It is to put a stop to this process of disintegration that is going on around us, unchecked for a long time past, that we are now obliged to move, and we are now trying to find out by what means we can do it. It is a well known fact that this community, whether Zemindars, Mirasidars, landed proprietors, or merchants or officials invariably spend some portion of their wealth in helping the spread of learning, by maintaining colleges, high schools, middle schools, and primary schools and by giving scholarships and supplying books etc. Why not now pause and direct the benefactions towards helping our own boys in the way of giving scholarships and books when they are wanted, open and maintain hostels and manage and supervise them for the uplifting of our boys. The time has come to give up the policy of drift and to divert our attention to improve our own community. We are not a wealthy people to spend in the way we have been doing before. We have to meet heavy demands.

Spare what you can for the great purpose of uplifting ourselves and removing that stigma of being placed inferior to the supposed intellectual class. I may here add that, following the ancient custom among us let us devote one member of every well to-do family for education who can with great advantage go up for a University career and can be well used for all public purposes.

Let us now turn our attention to another important matter, agriculture, which is of greater importance to us than literary education. It is the mainstay of the country upon which every thing else depends. It does not require much from me to tell you that it is in the same condition as it was centuries back. There is improvement on all sides, but no improvement in the most important and vital industry. If you look into other parts of the world, Europe and America, France and Japan what great changes have come over agriculture, within a short period of thirty years you will be amazed to hear, that with improved instruments to till and cultivate, to sow and reap, with scientific utilization of natural and artificial manures, these countries are now producing six times more than what they produced before acre to

acre. This sort of improvement is not impossible in this country if proper remedial measures are taken to remove the difficulties caused by the system of divisions and sub-divisions in the holdings amongst Hindu families. The lands are so held that a pattadar holds an acre here, half an acre there, a fourth of an acre, in another place, so far apart that one cannot even think of making any improvement on such small holdings. The only remedy for this will be co-operative action. We are now becoming familiar with it Thanks to Sir Frederic Nicholson who with his usual zeal inaugrated the co-operative credit societies which are gradually gaining ground. We see around us a beginning of co-operation which, if properly directed, can bring about as good results as will be found in the continent of Europe. But it requires careful nursing and delicate and enthusiastic hands to work. Agricultural education is the *sine quo non* for any improvement that can be expected. No doubt we have one or two colleges of agriculture, but for a vast country like this Presidency which is as big as France, can one

college or two colleges have any influence? Can it produce a sufficient number of men to spread agricultural knowledge among the people? There must be one school at least in each district with complete equipment for teaching young men, to fit them to be good demonstrators of experimental farms and for working in laboratories. The demontration farms must be in charge of competent men in each taluq to direct the ryots to adopt improvements. In every village school children must be trained to use improved agricultural instruments and improved methods, and unless some such elaborate system is adopted and sustained effort is made to help agriculture and the agriculturist, the Government will be failing in their duty as the supreme lords. There is no excuse whatever for the Government to allow deterioration to go on in the way it does now with an apology of Government endeavour in the Coimbatore and Pusa institutions. There could have been some excuse for the supineness of the Government thirty years back when there were no institutions for agricultural developments in other countries, but with the great stride agriculture

has made all over Europe and in England, and with the great number of Universities established in England within the last thirty years for teaching and training in all branches of Industries, with department of agriculture in every one of them, there cannot be any excuse whatever for the Government for their neglect. It is often said that Zemindars and Rajahs do not help the ryot, do not set a good example by establishing agricultural schools, and even the Government find fault with them, whereas they themselves have done almost nothing all along and that with the experience they had in their own country. It is our duty to point out their neglect and ask them to divert their particular attention to our requirements in that direction.

Then comes the question of cattle breeding. Here also there is complete neglect and a great deal of deterioration. The country which was famous for her cattle wealth, the country which was said to abound with milk and honey has lost its prestige. You might have heard of వెయ్యి ఆవులరెడ్డి. Reddi who owned cows in former days. The cattle

wealth is almost gone now and milk and ghee have become scarce in villages. The temple bull or Brahmin Bull, as it was called, has gone out of fashion, and the best cattle are bought off to supply the wants of other countries and this denudation is going on for some time. The cattle shows, instead of improving the cattle wealth of the country, have exposed the little wealth the people had to the foreigner, and the best cattle are being snatched away by him. No doubt he pays a big price but all the same, the country is losing much and without its cattle being replaced. If the people don't look to this state of things and mend it and if the Government do not also lend a helping hand to prevent this indiscriminate exhaustion, the day of retribution will soon come and both the Government and the people will rue it. Let the people revert to their old system of having a good breeding bull in each village, let it be carefully looked after and let the Government through their Revenue Officers, see that such bull is maintained in every village and one great step will have been taken to help the ryot. We have now the Coimbatore agricultural college with a large number of scientists and with

complete equipment for all kinds of experiments. But unfortunately men do not take to study there, and I believe very few are available for teaching purposes. [The Government should see that the maximum benefit is derived for the large amount of money that has been spent upon the buildings and laboratories and the large amount that is being spent upon maintaining the staff and the institution. If young men are not readily available in sufficient number, liberal scholarships should be offered to attract students. There is no use of merely importing professors from Europe. They do not know our language, and our people do not know their language and between the two no progress is made. I need not remind you of what our Technical Expert pithily said." The dyer does not understand my language. I don't understand his language and I am of no use." I must again impress upon you and the Government that a large number of Indians must be trained, who will work with the ryot with the help of the professors and in the vast extent. of this Presidency, something reasonable can be expected. All these will surely require money. A certain percent-age

of the Land Revenue can well be set apart for so useful a purpose with a prospect of ten fold profit. Are we not now wasting our money upon University professors of archiology, of economics etc., and what do we gain in return?

We will now go to the last but not the least important of subjects, industries. All the old industries of India were cottage industries. Every village was complete in itself. It had its village carpenter and smith to build its houses, shape its ploughs, build its carts, in fact to do all its carpentry and smithy. It had its weaver to weave all the cloth required for the village. Every house had a charka to spin the necessary yarn, the male prepared the cotton and the female spun the yarn and the village weaver wove the cloth, the village dhoby washed it. There was the pial school master to teach the three R's. for the village youngster and the pedagogue to teach up to reading Ramayanam and Bharatam and expounding them. The village Vidyan was there successfully practising the healing art and the village barber practising surgery. There was the village panchayat, to settle all disputes in the village and to manage all village communal affairs. In fact every village had

its Government complete in itself. Old order of things changeth yielding place to new. The cottage industries have almost become obsolete. New industries have come in their places. What home industries are required now, it is not easy to mention. Present civilisation has completely changed our requirements. A survey must be made all over the country, and the requirements of the people have to be carefully examined and cottage industries suited to the times have to be introduced. It may be that the cottage industries of several countries of Europe America, Japan and China can successfully be introduced in this country in place of the decayed ones and rapid strides may be made to improve the conditions of village life. The Government who appointed a committee to travel over Russia and other parts of Europe for opening out places for receiving our raw products will surely appoint a strong committee of members with some knowledge of the capacity of the Indian cottage labour to travel over the countries above mentioned to introduce cottage industries to suit the present Indian requirements.

There are then the industries connected with the raw products of the country. The produce

of the first importance is cotton. We have exported the year before this great world war from this Presidency to countries out side India cotton of different grades valued at more than three and half crores of Rupees taking the average of the five previous years. The following table shows the raw cotton shipped from this Presidency for the average of five years ending 1913—14 the year previous to the war.

Cotton Raw. Average for five years ending 1913—14

	cwts.	Rupees.
To Japan ...	351090	14125000
,, Italy ...	47515	1947000
,, United Kingdom ...	154139	6430000
,, China ...	16694	667000
,, Spain ...	10673	441000
,, France ...	29355	1100000
,, Indo China...	2140	87000
,, Ceylon ...	3325	121000
,, Belgium ...	180531	6782000
,, Germany ...	65980	2572000
,, Austria Hungary ...	45950	1770000
,, Russia ...	299	12000
,, Holland ...	16420	609000
,, Other Countries...	2866	119000
Total Cwt.	926,986	367,82000

Japan has increased her purchase of cotton in 1916-17 to cwts. 380395 worth Rs. 16684,000.

During the same period of five years, the average years taking of foreign cotton goods into this Presidency amounted to four crores and ten lakhs which was five crores and ninety-one lakhs in 1913-14. All the yarn and twist and cotton goods are certainly not made out of the cotton exported from this Presidency. A good portion of the textiles imported from the United Kingdom is made out of American and Egyptian cotton, but of late and especially after the great world war has begun things have changed. India is now making yarns up to 60s and grey shirtings of all kinds and dhoties are being made in Bombay and Ahamedabad mills. All the cotton that is now being exported to foreign countries can very well be manufactured in the country itself with good profit to the invester and work to the labourer. Several industrial and domestic problems will be easily solved by the development of this one industry. It is not a new industry to fear for its success. It is an industry that has been established in the country for several years past and proved successful. Bombay

the queen of the East, owes her position to this industry. We need not aim at the greatness of Bombay. Suffice it for us to establish one spinning and weaving mill in each of the cotton centres for the present to start with each with a capital of fifteen lakhs of rupe s. Let companies be formed with Directors in whom people can place their trust, with Directors who have business habits and bear good character. Let there be co-operation of the wealthy classes as well as the middle classes. Make yourselves ready to begin as soon as this great war ends. This is an opportunity, for us, which, if neglected, wil not come again. In Europe the end of this great world war, will be the beginning of another great war, the war between capital and labour. Signs are not wanting now of what it will be. Already there is a sign in the United Kingdom as to what the Labour party wants. A requisition went forth that 30 shillings a week shall be the minimum wage. It means 5 shillings a day or in Indian money Rs. 3-12-0 a day for the minimum. It is said that Indian labour has no comparison whatever with the European labour. The President of the Industrial Commission has

told us that man to man, there is not any difference, but the Indian labour must be better fed. Dr. Gilbert Slater, Professor of Econcmics of the Madras University, told us the other day that the potentiality of the Indian labour is one to two and a half of the European, *i.e.*, the European labourer will turn out two . and half times the work turned out by an Indian in a given time. Taking the labour as it is at present and granting that the Indian labourer turns out 1 : 2½ of the European labourer, even then Indian labour will be half as cheap as that of the European labour. This is a position which will always be in favour of Indian Industries. The country that produces raw material has several advantages if it has its own industries for her requirements. Saving of freight to and fro, commissions and brokerages, and what not. All these coupled with comparatively cheap labour, India can shape herself to be the foremost industrial country in the world. Education in all its branches is the only desideratum for its fulfilment and the benign Government and the people together can achieve that position if they work at it unfettered.

The next important agricultural production of our Presidency which is being exported unmanufactured is seeds. We exported in 1913-14 the pre war year.

	Weighing Cwts	Valued at Rs.
Ground nuts ...	3,946,362	344,49,000
Copra	7,61726	155,46,000
Castor	188,576	13,40,000
Essential oils ...	55,236	3,33,000
Sesamum or Til ...	65,411	6.66,000
Cotton Seed ...	83,932	3,22,000
Other sorts ...	77,818	6,34,000
Total seeds ...	5,178.952	5,32,90,000

Out of these France takes Rs. 308,92,000 worth of ground nuts and Germany Rs. 98,65,000 worth of copra and make enormous profits by extracting oils and making margarine and supplying the requirements of their own and other countries. If oil extraction becomes our established industry in this Presidency, barring the export of oils, what a vast field there is for minor industries! What quantity of cattle food and manure in the form of punnack will be left to us and how much our cattle and lands be benefited by their use we

cannot imagine! But it is not easy to extract oil and make it fit for export. It is a matter upon which a good deal of scientific and chemical knowledge has to be brought to bear. Costly machinery have to be imported from foreign country, and experts will have to be brought in at great cost. It is here that the Government has to come in, not in the way the Madras Government did it two years back. An oil extracting plant was purchased at some cost and was worked by the experts of the Industrial Department. Result, Failure, writ large. The plant sold to a private party. There ends Government pioneering oil industry.

These are the agricultural products of this Presidency which can be turned into manufactured articles, a great part of which could be utilized in the country itself and the surplus exported, with very great advantage to the people themselves and to the country.

There is one other industry, which is closely connected with agriculture i.e., leather. In the pre-war year this Presidency exported leather, partly tanned, to the value of Rs. 347,20,581 and Hides and Skins Raw to the value of Rs. 49,75,285 totalling Rs. 396,95,866. This industry can be very

greatly developed. But there are great difficulties in the way. Germany and America impose very heavy import duties upon fully manufactured leather, whereas they take raw and partly tanned goods without any import duties, thus protecting themselves against any competition from other countries while those Governments have bounties and cartels to help their finished goods to invade other countries. Ours is a free trade Government, and they will never have anything like protective duties, bounties or cartels to protect our interest, and so they give a free hand to foreign nations to deal with us in any way they like. I will give one instance how this attitude of the British Government retards our progress. A few years back, some tanners, with a little bit of enterprise in them, imported a few labour saving machinary and fitted them up in their tanneries. The consular agents of Germany got scent of it and reported the matter to their Government, and in came the boycot of those marks and the enterprising manufacturer was the loser. The matter was reported to the Government and the Government was unable to do anything in the matter.

This is our position and how long this state of affairs will be allowed to continue it is not for us to guess. But however there are signs of the British Government just beginning to see in what direction their free trade principles and their policy of indifference were carrying them, and after the war there is every likelihood of a complete change of policy for the betterment of the Empire. The British Government must have seen by this time how foreign consular agents helped the development of trade in their countries by giving full and timely information and how they forced their waxes through their travelling agents and how the consular agents have all information at their finger's ends while theBritish consular agents enjoyed a pleasant life of it. I may also mention that there are several minor industries, such as paper, paste board, matches, glass, soap, alchohal, drugs and medicines, chemicals &c., &c., all of which can be worked with the raw materials we have, but all these require a great deal of scientfic knowledge. It is in the development of these industries that the Government should come in with their help. The Industrial department must be made a real living depart-

ment, not an apology of it as it is at present. A Central Technical and Industrial institution must be started on the lines of Leeds and Bristol Universities, with departments of agriculture, leather trade, oil extraction &c &c., with professors fit for research work. A grand building for the Engineering college is coming in to existence now at Madras a portion of which it can be utilised for this purpose to start with.

I will now close this paper, with an exortation that every person, rich or poor, should put forth his mite and help the national cause of uplifting the country by establishing industries and making the country stand on a level with the civilised countries of the world. Platform speeches are good enough in their way, but they will not help the development of our country. Practical men should put their heads together and come out with a workable scheme. They must come out with a determination to establish one or two cotton spinning and weaving mill or mills to start with in good centres. We have an exceedingly good opportunity now, and if we dont take advantage of it we shall never more be in a position to get it. Awake, Arise and Act.

THE JUSTICE PRINTING WORKS .MADRAS, S. C.